United Nations A/57/604/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 April 2003

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 122

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 122 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/57/604.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 39th, 40th and 45th meetings, on 3, 4 and 28 March 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.39, 40 and 45).

3. For its further consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/451);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the investigation into sexual exploitation of refugees by aid workers in West Africa (A/57/465);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the management review of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/57/488).

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II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.60

4. At the 45th meeting, on 28 March, the representative of Botswana and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services" (A/C.5/57/L.60) and orally corrected the second preambular paragraph by replacing the words "*Recalling further*" by the words "*Recalling also*".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.60, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.61

6. At the 45th meeting, on 28 March, the representative of Botswana and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Investigation into sexual exploitation of refugees by aid workers in West Africa" (A/C.5/57/L.61) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 8, the words "as appropriate," were deleted after the words "to incorporate";

(b) In operative paragraph 10, the words "offences by humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel, regardless of age and gender" were replaced by the words "offences, irrespective of age and gender, by humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.61, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the Group of African States) and India.

C. Postponement of the consideration of a report

9. For the decision of the Committee regarding the postponement of the consideration of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the management review of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/57/488), see document A/57/648/Add.1.

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

10. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

Recalling also its resolution 56/246 of 24 December 2001,

Having considered the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002,[1]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

2. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Office;[1]

3. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Office to coordinate its programme with other oversight bodies, including the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit;

4. *Stresses* the need for adequate supervision and record-keeping of peacekeeping equipment, proper inventory and internal control systems, sufficient control over mission accounts and compliance with procurement guidelines, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the applicable recommendations of the Office are fully implemented by the relevant departments and peacekeeping missions;

5. *Encourages* the Office to continue to help ensure better use of the resources of the Organization and to strengthen accountability throughout the Organization;

6. *Notes with concern* the findings of the Office on problem areas in the functioning and administration of the Investment Management Service of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure full and expeditious implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Office that are of critical importance.

Draft resolution II
Investigation into sexual exploitation of refugees by aid workers in West Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

Recalling also paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1400 (2002) of 28 March 2002 and paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1460 (2003) of 30 January 2003,

[1] See A/57/451.

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the investigation into sexual exploitation of refugees by aid workers in West Africa,[2]

Recognizing the important roles and responsibilities that humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel have in protecting and assisting vulnerable populations, especially refugees and internally displaced persons, and expressing appreciation for the valuable efforts of the vast majority of such personnel in this regard,

Expressing its grave concern at incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse against vulnerable populations, in particular refugees and internally displaced persons in West Africa and elsewhere,

Emphasizing that the highest standards of conduct and accountability are required of all personnel serving in humanitarian and peacekeeping operations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the investigation into sexual exploitation of refugees by aid workers in West Africa;[2]

2. *Expresses its serious concern* that the conditions in refugee camps and communities may make refugees, especially women and children, vulnerable to sexual and other forms of exploitation;

3. *Condemns* any exploitation of refugees and internally displaced persons, especially sexual exploitation, and calls for those responsible for such deplorable acts to be brought to justice;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to create an environment free of sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian crises through, inter alia, integrating the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse into the protection and assistance functions of all humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the Plan of Action[3] developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises, and encourages all relevant agencies to pursue its effective and appropriate implementation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the remedial and preventive measures taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its implementing partners, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat, in response to recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services are extended, as appropriate, to all peacekeeping missions, refugee camps, refugee-related operations and other humanitarian operations;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that, in response to recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, clear and consistent procedures for impartially reporting and investigating instances of sexual exploitation and related offences are in place in all United Nations peacekeeping missions and humanitarian operations;

8. *Encourages* all United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, and specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, to incorporate into codes of conduct specific responsibilities of humanitarian aid workers to prevent and

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[2] See A/57/465.

[3] See A/57/465, annex I.

respond appropriately to sexual exploitation and abuse and to adopt appropriate disciplinary procedures for dealing with such violations when they occur;

9. *Recognizes* the shared responsibility, within their respective competencies, of United Nations organizations and agencies and troop-contributing countries to ensure that all personnel are held accountable for sexual exploitation and related offences committed while serving in humanitarian and peacekeeping operations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in response to recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to maintain data on investigations into sexual exploitation and related offences, irrespective of age and gender, by humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel, and all relevant actions taken thereon;

11. *Recalls* its decision that reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services should be considered under the relevant items of the agenda of the General Assembly;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his implementation of the measures pursuant to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to proceed expeditiously also with the implementation of the present resolution, inter alia, by issuing as soon as possible his bulletin on sexual exploitation and abuse, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, including information on any new cases of sexual exploitation revealed and the measures taken to deal with such cases.